



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

W.M.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,963	02/14/2001	Takashi Ide	1344.1057/JDH	9740

21171 7590 04/11/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
700 11TH STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

HAVAN, THU THAO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2672

3

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/781,963	IDE, TAKASHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thu-Thao Havan	2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 - 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 - 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
 - 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 - 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The formal drawings are approved by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Adler et al. (US patent no. 6,138,130).

Re claim 1, Adler discloses a two-dimensional data processing comprising operating means for inputting two-dimensional data, and for outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations to a row or a column of input two-dimensional data (col. 1, line 45 to col. 2, line 2); designating means for designating an operation type which specifies operation by operating means, and an input target and an output target of operation (col. 3, line 60 to col. 6, line 25); recording means for recording at least one set of operation contents in the designated order of operation contents, with the operation type, input target and output target designated through designating means being one set operation contents (col. 6, lines 12-25); and activating means for sequentially reading out operation

contents recorded by recording means, and for selectively activating one operation for operating means based on the operation type, input target and output target of operation contents (col. 6, line 12 to col. 10, line 67). In other words, Adler teaches an electronic spreadsheet in two-dimensional format wherein the user has the flexibility to customize the spreadsheet. The data associated with a cell (row and column) is called an object. The objects can be manipulated in that the user can input and manipulate data. The user is able to program new types of objects into the interpreter, define the operations that can be performed on these objects and then immediately utilize these objects in the context of the electronic spreadsheet. The electronic spreadsheet allows the user to perform functions, to create new objects, and to alter the basic operations permissible on those objects. In that the computer processing associates each object and each formula with each cell and correspondingly evaluates each formula and assigns to the operator(s) in each formula plurality of operative expressions selected in accordance with the object type of the changes and re-associating the result of each formula with each cell containing each formula operating on the at least one object whose value has changed. In addition, the computer processing stores each objects and each formula associated with each cell in a storage device (i.e. recording means).

Re claims **2, 6, and 10**, Adler teaches recording means operation contents as two-dimensional data (col. 2, lines 3-20; col. 6, line 12 to col. 10, line 67). Alder teaches recording means for the electronic spreadsheet is two-dimensional.

Re claims **3, 7, and 11**, Adler teaches executing-time designating means for designating the input target and the output target of operation by operating means, at

execution time of operation and wherein activating means selectively activates one operation of operating means based on the input target and the output target designated by execution-time designating means, when a specific identifier is included in operation contents recorded by recording means (col. 5, line 34 to col. 6, line 42). In other words, Adler teaches the computer-based system, wherein the user identifies a user-selected cell through the input means and enters at least one character into the text edit field through the input means and a memory storage unit. Furthermore, the computer-based system can provide unique benefits by functionally positioning the scripting language behind the spreadsheet. Hence the user may not only define objects but may also alter the basic operations permitted by the spreadsheet on those objects.

Re claims **4, 8, and 12**, Adler discloses the input target and the output target of operation by operating means are specified by another piece of two-dimensional data (col. 5, lines 1-51). The computer-based system of Adler is linked through a computer network that permits the computer systems to exchange data (i.e. means are specified by another piece of two-dimensional data).

Re claims **5 and 9**, the limitation of claims 5 and 9 are identical to claim 1 above. Therefore, claims 5 and 9 are treated with respect to grounds as set forth for claim 1 above.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nelson, US patent no. 6,262,736

Gusack, US patent no. 6,112,209

Inquiries

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu-Thao Havan whose telephone number is (703) 308-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Thu-Thao Havan
Art Unit: 2672
April 3, 2003



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600